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**DIARY OF A PRISONER OF WAR AT QUEBEC,  
1776.**

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COMMUNICATED BY J. A. WADDELL, ESQ.

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Much interest has been excited in this community in regard to the diary of an American soldier while a prisoner at Quebec, in 1776, recently brought to light. It is contained in a small book, of many pages, and in some parts the writing is difficult to decipher. Mr. W. L. Olivier found it in a lot of old books purchased by him at a sale made by the administrator of the late Judge John N. Hendren, and immediately submitted it to the examination of several persons.

For some time no one could ascertain who the writer was, or how the book came into the hands of Judge Hendren. But upon a close scrutiny, part of a name, nearly faded out, was discovered on the first page, viz: "Charles Por——," and the conclusion was reached that the book was the work of Charles Porterfield, one of the most gallant soldiers of the Revolutionary war. The descent of the book to Judge Hendren was then easily traced. Charles Porterfield was a brother of General Robert Porterfield, of Augusta county, who died in 1843, doubtless having had the book in his possession. The late Mr. William Kinney, of Staunton, was a son-in-law and executor of General Porterfield, and thus obtained the book. Judge Hendren was the administrator of Mr. Kinney, and the book, with many other writings came into his hands. He probably never examined it, or ascertained its contents—certainly, he never spoke of it to any one.

It is hardly necessary to tell who Charles Porterfield was, as he is prominently mentioned by Bancroft and other historians. I, however, may say briefly, that he was born in Frederick county, Va., in 1750, and in 1775 joined the first company raised in that county, of which Daniel Morgan was captain. The company served first at Boston, and afterwards constituted a part of the command of Montgomery and Arnold in their expedition to Canada. Most of the men, including Morgan and

Porterfield, were captured by the British at the assault on Quebec, December 31, 1775, and detained as prisoners till late in 1776. After being exchanged, he re-entered the service as a captain in Morgan's rifle corps, and participated with that celebrated command in the battles of Saratoga. He spent the winter of 1777-8 at Valley Forge, having John Marshall, afterwards the Chief Justice, as one of his mess-mates. In 1779, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of a Virginia regiment, and marched to the relief of Charleston, South Carolina. With his shattered command he joined General Gates a few days before the battle of Camden, in which he was mortally wounded, August 17, 1780. Having never married, he left no descendant.

The diary is of little or no historical value, but is interesting as a memorial of a distinguished patriot and soldier. It begins abruptly as follows:

"3rd March—A flag outside of ye walls, supposed by ye garrison to be a signal from our people.—Some time after ye flag was taken down, and black and white put in the place."

I give other extracts to show the character of the diary:

"30th.—Capt. Lockwood and Hanchet carried on board ye same vessel, on suspicion of tampering with one of the centries."

The vessel referred to was a schooner on which another officer was confined.

"Tuesday, 7th May.—Visited by Quartermaster-General and Major Carlton, of ye 20th regiment, and Lord Petersham, capt. of the grenadiers of the 29th regiment, who with several subalterns arrived yesterday. Major Carlton (brother of his Excellency), from his familiar, open and engaging behavior has prejudiced us in his favor. He appeared to feel for and sympathize with us. Every sentence he uttered breathed tenderness and humanity. In fine, both his words and actions during his short visit displayed the polite gentleman and soldier. As a proof of his delicacy and feeling, he replied in a low voice to Col. Caldwell, officer of the day, who was repeating something to us disagreeable and irritating: 'O, Sir, you should not say anything to them that is disagreeable—they are all our brethren.' "

"Thursday, 9th May.—General Montgomery's Order Book, with a number of letters and other papers were brought in."

"Wednesday, 22nd May.—This day we are informed by Mr. St. Andrews, officer of the guard, that ye 6th regiment, with a number of Canadians and Indians, had an engagement with some of our troops near Montreal, where ye killed 150 of our people and put the rest to flight, and further, in all probability Montreal was taken."

"Monday, 27th May.—Before 9 o'clock this morning, arrived 4 transports and 2 frigates of war, with a large body of troops, said to be directly from Britain, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Frazier. Lieut. Smith, officer of ye guard, informed us that there is 7000 men on board. Ye made no stop at this place, but sailed directly up towards Montreal." The Colonel Frazier alluded to was Colonel Fraser, afterwards General, killed at Saratoga.

"Sol Smith, Lieut. in Col. McClain's regiment, informs us that one Capt. Foster, of the eighth regiment, with a body of light troops, consisting of 60 men, joined by 600 Indians and a number of Canadians, coming from Sycocke, attacked a number of our men, about 400, at a place called the Cedars, they being intrenched up to their eyes, and 2 field pieces, yet were so surprised as to give up without firing a gun, true, to their eternal disgrace. He further informs us that s'd Capt. Foster attacked another party of about 90, which he surrounded. They bravely defended themselves, killed a number of their enemies, but being overpowered with numbers were at last obliged to surrender.

"Gen. Arnold, we hear, is entrenched Lyshel, about 9 miles above Montreal. We have further information that there is 26 sail belonging to the fleet this morning passed this place, now in ye river, expected up this day. Gen. Holdiman is on board, and commands. It is reported that 5,000 Hessians is expected in a short time at this place.

"Some of the Canadians are gone up ye river in bateaux. Capt. Frazier, of Col. McClain's regiment, officer of the day. He appears to be a kind, good-disposed man. Eleven sail arrived this evening. One large vessel gave a salute of 13 guns. We supposed Haldiman to be on board s'd ship. Two of our lads brought from the jail to the Seminary, viz: John Wade, of

Capt. Morgan's company, and ———. They inform us that many of our men in the hospital are very bad with ye scurvy."

"Tuesday, 28th May.—It would seem by the accounts that we get, as if all the powers of Europe had combined to subdue America, and deprive her of her rights and liberties, which I think cannot, nor ever will it be the case that America should be brought to slavery. We have visitors every day. There was two smartes came to see us with Lieut. McShenner. They stood about the house without saying anything to any of us, and talked of armies coming over to America. One of the gentlemen had a sword at his arm, which he kept in play all the time of their stay. After the gauslins had stretched their necks, staring about the house, and blabbed out some of their malapert discourse, they marched off without taking the least seeming notice of any person, but they did not pass unnoticed.

"The weather continues cold, snow being yet to be seen in places through the country. There is, in my opinion, just one month of diff. in the climate here and in Virginia."

"Wednesday, 29th May.—Capt. Frazier, officer of the day. He was pleased to inform us that it had been said by some of the gentlemen of our Department that we had been worse used since our people removed, than formerly. But very politely assured us that it was not so intended by his Excellency, nor any of the officers commanding, with respect to provisions. He assured us that he would make mention to Col. McClain, and expected that it might be redressed. We assured him that no complaint had been made against Government on account of our treatment (since ye above-mentioned removal of our people) further than what was here. While ye remained we had credit and could get coffee, chocolate, and such necessaries as we wanted, that now is not the case, which rendered our situation truly miserable, being so long kept on salt pork, and now having nothing but pork and bread to live on, and had not the privilege of speaking to any person. Capt. Frazier returned and informed us that he had acquainted Col. McClain of our grievances, and that we shall have fresh provisions, and permission to speak with any gentleman that we send for. \* \* We are informed that there is two Generals come on board a frigate, but cannot as yet learn their names. Upon their landing the

garrison gave a salute of 13 guns. We dined on fresh shad this day, the first fresh that we have had some time, Capt. Lamb sent by the corporal of the guard."

"Thursday, 30th.—Lieut. Born officer of the guard. This day a number of officers and gentlemen came into the entry of our department. We opened the door and invited them to walk in. Mr. Born being along, told them that they should not converse with us (contrary to the orders of Capt. Frazier from Col. McClain yesterday). They seemed as if they were desirous to speak, or otherwise they wanted to see if we were like the inhabitants of Europe. \* \* This day we drew 37 lbs. of fresh beef, by Mr. Prentice delivered, who assured us that we should be served with the same quantity until some further orders. General Burgoyne was the person that arrived yesterday, as mentioned. I hear of no other. He is marched up the river. A Brunswick officer informed Mr. Febiger that there is 4,000 Brunswickers, 4,000 Hanoverians, and 12,000 Hessians destined for America. Some of the Brunswickers are already gone up the river. The remainder of these Hanoverians expected up every day. The Hessians are destined for the Southern Colonies. Most of the gentlemen that have come over inform us that 11 out of 12 of the inhabitants of Great Britain were in our favor, but our expedition into Canada had caused some of our warmest friends to turn our enemies. Still it appears that there is some virtue in the British, since their ministers are obliged to hire foreign troops to cut the throats of the Americans contending for their rights. There was some discourse passed between Capt. Lamb, of ye artillery, from New York, and Capt. Goodrich, of Massachusetts, previous to our attack of ye 31 December, which I hope may in time be cleared up and everything appear in its true color."

"June 1.—Col. Litz, a Hessian officer, and his son and some others, paid us a visit. They informed Mr. Febiger that there is eighteen thousand troops from Germany embarked for America. They made but a short stay, departing with compliments becoming officers."

"Sunday, 2nd June.—Visited by Lieut. Aalet, Prince Hesse Darmstedt, and some more of the Hessian troops. Their appearance extraordinary gay. Blue regimentals with red facings

and silver frogs makes them shine. Broad lace upon their hats and Coats. They behaved very complacent. Their discourse was in German. Mr. Febiger held them in conversation. They informed him that there was 7,000 of their troops and 5,000 English, besides the train, all that were coming to this place. We have had some intelligence by some of the officers that commissioners were appointed to come over from Britain to offer terms of reconciliation to the Colonies. Likewise that there would be an early exchange of prisoners of war, and not esteemed as rebels, as some has been pleased to call us. God grant both, especially the latter."

"Monday, 3rd June.—We received intelligence this day that there is 15,000 troops gone to New York under Gen. Howe, 15,000 under the command of Gen. Clinton to join Lord Dunmore for Virginia, and 15,000 for Carolina, with what are destined for this place and what were in America before will consist at least of 70,000 men. Likewise that there is 30,000 Prussians ready to embark upon any emergency that may happen. Major Carlton was pleased to come at our request. Our business was to desire that he would speak to the General to know if he would grant us the liberty of the town on our parole. He assured us that he would speak to the General and use his influence in our behalf."

On the 4th of June, Maj. Carlton, accompanied by Capt. Foy, reported that the General suggested that the prisoners send, in writing, the terms of parole. Capt. Lamb wrote a petition which was generally agreed to and signed by Col. Green (?) and thirty-three officers and volunteers.

"Friday, 7th June, about 1 o'clock.—This afternoon Major Carlton came informing us that he had presented our second requisition to his Excellency, and had the pleasure to inform us that he was disposed to let us return home," &c., &c. But they did not get off till late in the year.

"Friday, June 11, 1776.—Col. Arnold, it is said, is plundering and burning Montreal, and sending the goods over the lake."

"Friday, 14th.—By Mr. Prentice this morning, we had the following agreeable intelligence, viz: that Gen. Carlton, from principles of humanity and tenderness, characters in which his

Excellency shines in the most eminent light, takes the following demonstration: Col. Allen and his party, before mentioned, at the defeat of Point Delack, retreated to the woods where he was surrounded and reduced to the necessity of starving or giving up their arms, the former being by them preferred, suffered them to go off rather than they should die so cruel a death. \* \* John Brown of Capt. Morgan's Company, and Agnew of Capt. Smith's, by trade millers, and employed at Col. Caldwell's mill on Point Levy side, made for home on Thursday last without giving their employers notice."

"Wednesday 19th —We hear that it was our (word illegible) troops that behaved so well in the late affair. Thanks to God that Thomas is gone out of this world, or by the conduct he pursued, the troops of the Colonies would have evacuated this Province before this time with disgrace, as they marched from before Quebec. It is reported that the German troops above desert fast."

"Wednesday, 3rd July.— \* \* This day Capt. Morgan called Maj. Bigelo into our room to enquire the reason of his conduct concerning the money offered by Mr. Frazier for the use of the gentlemen prisoners, as he could not be reconciled until he heard the particulars. Upon this Capt. Goodridge immediately followed, usually making it a practice to do so when any gentleman comes into the room to converse, listening for news. At the same time knowing that he is detested by all the room for his rascally conduct. He no sooner reached the door than Capt. Morgan ordered him out, as having no business here, and took him by the throat to put him out. Immediately came Mr. Andrews and many more, rushing in at the door. Andrews took hold of Capt. Morgan and struck him, while four or five others were holding him from Goodrich. Goodrich ran out of the room, and the most of his party with him. Capt. Morgan followed into the entry, turning short back, saying that if they were for shovels he was their match, catching up the tongs and went out, but returned without any blow. Upon this eruption a council was immediately called by Goodrich. The members, as I am informed, were Hanchet, Cetland, Andrews, Brown, as principals. Webb and ——— are said to have consulted, the question being but what should be done. Upon Goodrich de-



claring that he was afraid of his life, it was agreed that they would apply for protection to the Lieut.-Governor to have their wrongs redressed, and accordingly sent a note to Major Frantz and Major Cox. They both came, and they made their complaint, desiring that Capt. Morgan might be removed from the place. Capt. Morgan knew nothing of their sending, neither what complaint they had lodged against him, by the advice of Capt. Lamb sent a note to the before-mentioned gentlemen. They came in the afternoon, and we all assembled in the large room, all persons being present. Capt. Morgan related the cause of the usage he had given Goodridge was his wrongfully detaining a watch belonging to Mr. Banfield, the particulars of which I can relate, being present, Sunday, 23rd June, at the garden wall. Capt. Morgan asked Goodridge why he did not send Mr. Banfield his watch, he answered that he had no opportunity. Capt. Morgan told him that Mr. Cunningham would carry it, for which he with 20 other gentlemen would be security. Goodrich absolutely denied sending it without an order from Mr. Banfield, which Mr. Banfield could not send, rather choosing to lose the watch. Upon this Capt. Morgan accused him of designing to defraud him of the watch, and d—m'd him that he would make him give it up, as he looked upon it as a reflection on the whole to let him carry it off, and choked him. Goodrich exclaimed at the usage, through fear became honest, and gave the watch to Capt. Morgan, and he to Cunningham. This being related, Goodrich stood forth and read a minute of his abuse—a most extraordinary piece.

“The gentlemen seemed ashamed to hear such complaints, desiring that we would try to make our situation as agreeable as we could amongst ourselves, as they intended so to make it, as much so as in their power. They declared their aversion to hear any of our private complaints—that they could not settle it—that their advice was to let such things rest till such time as they got to their own country, &c., &c.”

“There was much more conversation on the same subject not worth relating. For my part, I don't know when I have suffered more in mind than during the whole of the relation. Think what a despicable opinion these gentlemen must entertain of us, or of any set of men in our situation, that would call their enemies to

be their arbiters in such contests—much below the conduct of any gentleman, much less an officer in the army.”

The entry of June 23rd says nothing about the watch. On the 24th the writer says: “Capt. Morgan called —— to an account about Mr. Banfield’s watch which he received from the Indians. By them stolen the first night that we crossed the —— . He has had it in possession ever since, and not being willing to part with it, rather claiming to keep it. After being choked a little delivered it up without further trouble.”

The last entry is dated Wednesday, 10th July.

JOSEPH A. WADDELL.

*Staunton, Va., June 18, 1901.*

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**Papers Relating to the Administration of Governor  
Nicholson and to the Founding of William  
and Mary College.**

(CONTINUED.)

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A MODEST REPLY TO MR. COMMISSARY BLAIR’S ANSWER TO  
MY REASONS FOR QUITTING YE COLLEGE. P[ER] MUNGO  
INGLES.

(CONCLUDED.)

I know no obligation I owe to Mr. Blair on y<sup>t</sup> Score unless he means ye twenty pounds Sterling he Cheated me of at y<sup>t</sup> time for he had positive Instructions from ye Generall Assembly to advance fifty pounds Sterling for ye Incouragement of a Master to Come Over and he Defrauded me of 20 pounds of it by a Distinction w<sup>th</sup> he pretended in his Instructions about a Master w<sup>th</sup> a Wife & family, Whereas his Instructions w<sup>th</sup> I have since Seen were positive for fifty pounds w<sup>th</sup>ot Distinction. But he had a certain Occasion for y<sup>t</sup> 20 pounds & so much good may it do him. Besides Suppose I had owed him any obligation on y<sup>t</sup> account I have over and above Ballanced accot. with him by ye Perpetuation I have given to ye School by w<sup>th</sup> Means he